

THIS REPORT CONTAINS ASSESSMENTS OF COMMODITY AND TRADE ISSUES MADE BY USDA STAFF AND NOT NECESSARILY STATEMENTS OF OFFICIAL U.S. GOVERNMENT POLICY

Required Report - public distribution

**Date:** 1/11/2010  
**GAIN Report Number:** EG1001

## Egypt

### CITRUS ANNUAL

#### Citrus Annual

**Approved By:**  
Jonathan P. Gressel

**Prepared By:**  
Cynthia I. Guven & Sherif I Sherif

**Report Highlights:**

Both area and production of oranges increased by 2 percent in 2008/09 and exports are expected to increase by 3 percent in 2009/10.

**Executive Summary:**

The number of oranges bearing trees is increasing every year. Egyptian orange exports in 2008/09 decreased as a result of the effect of the world financial crises. However, exports are expected to increase by 3 percent in 2009/010 due to the growing opportunity in the Iranian market.

**Commodities:**

Select

**Commodities:**

Select

Select

**Production:**

Oranges, Fresh								
Egypt								
	2007/2008			2008/2009			2009/2010	
	Market Year Begin: Oct 2007			Market Year Begin: Oct 2008			Market Year Begin: Oct 2009	
	USDA Official Data		Old Post	USDA Official Data		Old Post	USDA Official Data	Jan
			Data			Data		Data
Area Planted	110,000		110,000	147,000		147,000		150,000
Area Harvested	105,000		105,000	140,000		140,000		150,000
Bearing Trees	5,713		5,713	7,650		7,642		7,800
Non-Bearing Trees	4,563		4,563	6,100		6,097		6,224
Total No. Of Trees	10,276		10,276	13,750		13,739		14,024
Production	2,759		2,759	3,500		3,500		3,568
Imports	0		0	0		0		0
Total Supply	2,759		2,759	3,500		3,500		3,568
Exports	560		850	530		774		800
Fresh Dom. Consumption	2,149		1,859	2,910		2,666		2,698
For Processing	50		50	60		60		70
Total Distribution	2,759		2,759	3,500		3,500		3,568

**Production**

Oranges are a winter fruit well-suited to the Egyptian climate. Orange production accounts for well over half the total fruit production in Egypt. Orange cultivation is centered in two large geographic regions: the fertile Delta area and the newly reclaimed lands. About 80 percent of Egypt's total orange production is produced by large farms (10-100 feddans) and 20 percent is produced by small farms (1-10 feddans), (One feddan = .42 hectare). Navel oranges are the predominant variety, representing about 70 percent of total Egypt's orange production. Lesser amounts of local (baladi), sweet, valencia, and other varieties are also produced. The harvest of navel oranges begins in October and is followed by other varieties in November and December. The harvest usually lasts from four to five months.

Total orange area in 2008, was estimated at 147,000 hectares compared to 110,000 hectares in 2007. Total orange production in 2008, increased to about 3.5 million MT compared to 2.7 million MT in 2007. The increase in orange production was mainly due to the increase in the number of bearing trees. For the 2009 season, both area and production are expected to increase. This expected increase in production is due to the increased number of bearing trees, also the expected absence of strong winds which usually cause damage to fruit sets.

### **Consumption**

Oranges are the main fruit available in Egypt during the winter. Due to the fact that oranges are relatively inexpensive, Egyptians consume large amounts of oranges, both fresh and or juice. Per capita consumption of oranges is estimated at about 33 Kg per year. The orange processing industry is expanding due to the increased number of companies producing orange juice. At the present time, there are eight major orange juice processors in Egypt. Most companies depend on the baladi and summer varieties for processing. Domestic production is primarily destined for fresh consumption. Imported orange juice is also available in the market. Egyptian citrus grown in arid areas (reclaimed desert land) is characterized by low juice content, while fruits produced in the more humid regions, mainly along the Red Sea and Mediterranean coast, have much higher juice content.

### **Trade**

The Egyptian orange export season is relatively long, extending from December to April, and this is quite favorable for the export of navel oranges. Although Egypt has excellent opportunities for expanding its orange exports due to its favorable climate and strategic geographic location, exports of Egyptian oranges to the European market continue to be limited by the uneven quality of Egyptian oranges as well as by competition from other suppliers such as Spain, Israel, and Morocco. European countries import baladi and summer varieties, mainly for juicing, while Saudi Arabia, Russia and recently Iran are importing Egyptian table oranges. Total Egyptian orange exports in 2008/2009 fell to 774,000 MT compared to 850,000 MT in 2007/2008 as a result of the world financial crisis. For 2009/2010, exports are expected to increase by about three percent, because of the anticipated growing opportunity in Iran as a new market for Egyptian oranges. The current average export price of fresh oranges is \$550/MT C&F as compared to \$ 555/MT during the same period last season (beginning of export season).

The EU-Egyptian Partnership Agreement, which was signed on June 24, 2001, offers tariff concessions for Egyptian orange exporters. In 2007/08 Egypt received a duty-free TRQ of 70,000 MT for fresh or dried oranges. However, starting in the 2009/10 season, Egypt received tariff concessions for all

Egyptian orange exports to EU countries. European countries import baladi and summer varieties, mainly for juicing.

### Trade Matrix

Egypt Oranges MT			
Exports to	2007	Exports to	2008
U.S.		U.S.	
Others		Others	
Russia	150,000	Saudi Arabia	189,000
Ukraine	115,000	Russia	89,000
Iran	83,000	Iran	90,000
England	57,000	Ukraine	75,000
E.U	45,000	England	52,000
Gulf Countries	106,000	Gulf Countries	90,000
Latvia	9,000	Sudan	19,000
<b>Total for Others</b>	565,000		604,000
<b>Others not listed</b>	405,000		170,000
<b>Grand Total</b>	790,000		774,000